



**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes - FINAL
February 9, 2017**

Members Present: Mina Liebert, Gary Feffer, Hank Scarangella, Jason Rupinski, Carol Beckman, Charles Castle, Scot Hume, Gary Bostrom

Members Absent: Ron Ilgen

Alternates Present

Alternates Absent: Charlie Dunn

Staff Present: Karen Palus, Chris Lieber, Kurt Schroeder, Kim King, Christi Mehew

Called to Order: Mina Liebert, Board Chair, brought the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

Citizen Discussion

Janet Suthers, spouse of Mayor John Suthers, displayed a slide picture of a giant frame that contained the Olympic City U.S.A. logo on the top. GE Johnson will be donating the frame and it will be strategically placed in Garden of the Gods Park with a view of Pike's Peak America's Mountain in the background. Park visitors will be able to take their picture along with promoting our City as Olympic City U.S.A.

Board member Charles Castle suggested that small versions of the frame be produced and sold at the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center. Janet Suthers stated approval has been granted by the US Olympic Committee for the Visitor Center to sell Olympic City U.S.A merchandise.

Tom Webb stated he was one of the founders of the Friends of the City Auditorium and is in attendance for a future item that will be presented in this meeting and hopes it's a positive experience.

Bonnie Johnson, Colorado Springs Bike Shop owner and Active Transportation Advisory Committee member, stated she would like to see a revision to the bike ordinance to include EBikes on our hiking trails.

Susan Davies, Trails and Open Space Coalition Executive Director, stated that bike shops are selling a vast amount of EBikes and citizens are in need of clarification where they are allowed to ride. She hopes the Board will address this issue as the City needs to stay connected and citizens need to be safe while riding bikes.

An election will be held in April to elect City Council members. TOSC cannot advocate for a City Council member; however, questions can be asked. District and neighborhood events will be held and TOSC will be asking candidates where they stand regarding park funding and EBikes.

Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, stated she will be in a “code scrub” meeting later this morning and the Board will be a part of the EBike discussion in the near future.

Board Chair Mina Liebert stated candidate forums will be held at two of our Community Centers to discuss their stance on issues on the following dates:

- Wednesday, February 21st at 6:00 p.m., Deerfield Hills Community Center
- Friday, February 24th at 5:30 p.m., Deerfield Hills Community Center
- Wednesday, March 1st at 6:00 p.m., Meadows Park Community Center

Approval of Minutes – January 12, 2017

Motion – To approve the January 12, 2017 minutes with modifications made per board members Carol Beckman and Charles Castle.

1st – Charles Castle, 2nd – Scot Hume, Approved, Unanimous

Action Items

Crest at Woodmen Land Exchange (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Park Planner)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: project location; project background; Vincent Drive realignment; site photos; parking areas; proposed land exchange; existing trails; trail opportunities; proposed development; more site photos; schedule and staff recommendation.

John Radcliffe, Galloway and Company Colorado Springs Office Manager is the owner representative and is present today to answer any questions.

The project location is at the southeast corner of the intersection of Woodmen Road and Interstate 25. In 2002, the Parks Department was donated 2.26 acres of property in this area with the proposed use for a trailhead for the Cottonwood Creek Trail.

Vincent Drive realignment includes a PPRTA project as well as a phased project. The Parks Department is closely involved in the PPRTA project which included a trail underpass beneath the new roadway which is on city property. The phased project included a road realignment, creek stabilization and trail improvements.

The proposed land exchange is consistent with previous land exchanges and meets the City’s real estate manual requirements. This is an equal value and size exchange with the value supported by appraisals. The City would receive 1.490 acres and the Crest at Woodmen would receive 1.489 acres.

Currently people are trespassing on homeowner's property near Academy Boulevard. Future trail opportunities will be completed on the Cottonwood Creek Trail at Academy Boulevard to alleviate the trespassing. This is associated with the bridge replacement at Academy Boulevard over Cottonwood Creek.

Board member Jason Rupinski inquired if homeowners along the proposed area, called Yorkshire Estates, have been contacted. David Deitemeyer responded the developers along with the Planning Department, held a public meeting to receive feedback from the neighborhood and possibly more opportunities will be offered. The homeowners have not shown interest in having access to the trail at this time.

Discussions have occurred regarding a possible six foot precast concrete privacy fence that would go along the trail between the homeowners and the proposed development area.

Board member Hank Scarangella asked if a safe passage exists at the Woodmen and Academy interchange to cross Academy and connect to the Cottonwood Creek Trail to the east. David Deitemeyer suggested the York and Academy crosswalks or the stoplight at Dublin Boulevard.

Board member Charles Castle inquired about the possibility of the trail to be part gravel and part concrete. David Deitemeyer responded that during the planning process the Parks Department will look at the budget and consider this option.

Board member Carol Beckman inquired if the concrete fence would be closed off at areas that are currently open with concern for utility access and adversely if the fence is left open it could encourage trespassing. David Deitemeyer responded that access will be provided for utilities by possibly constructing a gate and signage would be installed to state "no trespassing".

The schedule includes:

- February 9th, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommendation
- March 13th, City Council work session presentation
- March 28th, City Council regular meeting approval
- Spring 2017, the real estate and planning process will begin
- Spring/Summer 2017, the gravel trail will be constructed

Susan Davies, TOSC Executive Director, asked if the York Street neighborhood would be able to have access to this trail as it currently is not an option. David Deitemeyer stated that the neighborhood expressed no interest in having access to the trail during public meetings.

Motion: To approve the proposed Crest at Woodmen Land Exchange.

1st – Gary Bostrom, 2nd – Jason Rupinski, Approved, Unanimous

Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) Supplemental Appropriation (Presented by Kurt Schroeder, Parks Operations Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: proposed CTF Projects; a CTF overview; 2017 approved CTF budget; Sinton Trail 2D work; Sertich Ice Center; tennis courts; Meadows Park Community Center; playground resurfacing; proposed CTF projects; the process and recommendations.

The 2016 Conservation Trust Fund revenue exceeded expectations and the remaining balance at the end of 2016 was \$552,191. The proposed CTF projects are: Sinton Trail 2D work; Sertich Ice Center new rubber flooring; Sertich Ice Center purchase of a new Zamboni; resurfacing of the Grant, Sandstone and Cottonwood Parks tennis courts; repairing the drainage issues at Meadows Park Community Center; and playground resurfacing at Memorial Park (Polly Wog playground), Wilson Ranch and Explorer Park. These proposed projects total \$570,000.

The schedule includes:

- February 9th, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommendation
- City Council work session presentation
- City Council regular meeting approval

Board member Jason Rupinski asked if the extra \$20,000 due to the Zamboni cost reduce the fund balance reserve to \$390,000. Kurt Schroeder concurred.

Board member Charles Castle stated the neighborhood near Sinton Trail would like to be more involved in the completion of the trail. Kurt Schroeder stated the trail work is contracted out; however, the community can be involved with the Sinton Pond project through the Parks Departments volunteer efforts.

Board member Gary Bostrom inquired about the evaluation process of funds for 2017. Kurt Schroeder stated it is assessed every year and it is based on the lottery revenue and the needs of the Department.

Board member Carol Beckman asked about the new playground surface. Kurt Schroeder stated the playgrounds currently have engineered wood fiber that is not a long lasting surface. They will be replaced with a rubberized or artificial turf that lasts twelve to fifteen years.

Board Chair Mina Liebert inquired about the distribution of Conservation Trust Fund dollars for Colorado. Kurt Schroeder stated it is distributed on a per capita basis. Lottery funds are distributed amongst the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and state parks, and a remaining portion is divided on a per capita basis between municipalities and counties.

Kim King, Parks and Recreation Manager, stated Community Development Block Grant funds will be used to match the dollars for the improvements at Meadows Park Community Center.

Board member Charles Castle thanked Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, for all the improvements made since 2012 at Meadows Park Community Center.

Motion: To recommend approval of the Conservation Trust Fund supplemental request.

1st – Charles Castle, 2nd – Jason Rupinski, Approved, Unanimous

Presentations

Code Scrub – Parks Related Code Revisions (Presented by Karen Palus, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director and Britt Haley, City Attorney Division Chief)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

[Link to draft code chapter revisions](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: a code revision overview; how to review; chapter 1; chapter 2; chapter 4; chapter 6; chapter 7; chapter 9; chapter 10 and discussion/questions.

Christi Mehew, Administrative Technician, will upload the code revisions onto the City website's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board page after the meeting concludes.

Karen Palus thanked the Parks Department staff and individuals that have assisted in the Code Scrub process. In addition, she thanked Kari Vollaire, Senior Paralegal, and Britt Haley, City Attorney Division Chief, who have spent an enormous amount of time on the project and provided great feedback.

A folder was provided to board members containing each chapter that was revised. Revisions were indicated in bold and cross outs. Board members were asked to review the revisions and submit their comments to Karen Palus.

Board member Scot Hume inquired if organizations can appeal to City Council the final decision of the Parks Board relating to park master plans. Britt Haley responded that a “party-in-interest” can appeal which is defined in the code. This discussion occurred to try to identify people who have a connection to the park in question. The party that appeals needs to meet these requirements otherwise they need to refer to a resident on their behalf. Karen Palus asked Scot Hume to please include any concerns in his notes when submitting comments.

Board member Hank Scarangella asked about the appeal process and how “ten days” are defined. Karen Palus stated it is ten days from the meeting in which the item was approved. Britt Haley stated it is explained as “calendar days” under another existing city code provision.

Board member Charles Castle inquired if the homeless who are illegally using park property is being addressed in the codes. Britt Haley stated that homeless issues are a citywide concern. The community has more clarity with the adoption of the anti-camping ordinance and the police department enforces this ordinance. Karen Palus stated efforts are being made to make sure they are not on park property because there is bed space available for the homeless in the City per the Housing and Community Initiatives Manager.

The following items were not addressed through this code scrub process: Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO); Pioneer Museum Board; Full Drone Decision; and EBikes.

TOPS 20th Anniversary Calendar of Events & Video (Presented by Tilah Larson, Senior Grant Analyst)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: a social media campaign; BioBlitz a 24 hour event; youth and family activities; and a TOPS 20th celebration.

2017 marks the 20th year that the TOPS program has been enacted. The TOPS 20th Anniversary will be celebrated in several ways to include a social media campaign, four BioBlitzes held from June to September on several TOPS properties, a nature discovery challenge, coloring contest and a TOPS celebration.

Ceremonial Items – Time Certain 10:00 a.m.

Kim King presented awards to Laurel Prud'homme from the Downtown Partnership of Colorado Springs and Tyrone Johnson from Colorado Springs Utilities for their support and assistance with the Ice Rink at Acacia Park. Laurel Prud'homme was unable to attend today's ceremonial event.

Karen Palus presented awards to the El Pomar Foundation for their support and assistance with the Economic Benefit Study Release event. The El Pomar Foundation representatives present included: Thayer Tutt, Walt Hecox, Samantha Albert and Melissa Wills. Lori Bellingham and Garrett Mayberry were unable to attend today's ceremonial event.

Karen Palus presented awards to Cheryl McCullough from the Colorado Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau and Laurel Prud'homme from the Downtown Partnership of Colorado Springs for their support with the Economic Benefit Study. Laurel Prud'homme was unable to attend today's ceremonial event.

Pikes Peak - America's Mountain Annual Report Update (Presented by Jack Glavan, Pikes Peak - America's Mountain Manager)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: the state of the Peak; Pikes Peak guiding documents; term special use permit; annual operating plan; 2016 facts and statistics; visitor information; 2016 advertising and marketing; print and digital campaigns; social media; social outreach; 2017 project timeline; 2017 budget; summit house project; project overview; public process; environmental process; the schedule; site aerial view; northern look; retail area; dining area; Pikes Peak Summit Complex yearly cash flow analysis; total estimated construction cost; proposed observatory update; proposed site; and the artist concept.

Board member Hank Scarangella asked what organization is assisting with the Observatory project. Jack Glavin stated it is the National Space Science and Technology Institute and the contacts are Bob Sallee and Dimitri Klebe.

Forestry Annual Report (Presented by Jay Hein, City Forester)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: City forestry programs; urban forestry accomplishments; urban forestry contracted services; urban forestry resource issues; 2016 urban forestry weather events; 2016 urban forestry insurance claims; forest management accomplishments; tussock moth treatment; native rights-of-way; right-of-way accomplishments; insect and disease; distribution of Green Ash; other program accomplishments; and a look forward into 2017.

Board member Gary Bostrom thanked Jay Hein for his work in the Old North End during the wind storm and asked if the trees that are being removed on Nevada Avenue near Fontanero Road will be replaced. Jay Hein stated yes.

Board member Carol Beckman inquired if the sprayed trees were recovering from the tussock moth infestation, what percentage they anticipate to die and the status of the pine bark beetle. Jay Hein responded that 60-70% of the trees may die off and more will be known this Spring. The pine bark beetle has been seen but not in high concentrations.

Tom Webb stated many years ago there was a program called Green Springs. The program involved many volunteers who planted trees in the City. Local landscapers provided tools to assist the volunteers and thousands of trees were planted over a few summers. Sarah Bryarly, Parks Development Interim Manager, stated the program originated out of the Clean Air Campaign. The program flourished and then over time there was a lack of participation and interest.

Pioneer Park Access Update (Presented by David Deitemeyer, Park Planner and Eric Vaillancourt, Real Estate Agent)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: Pioneer Park East – Access for Kids (PEAK); benefits the local area; site photos; goal; status – what has been done so far; next steps; summary; and why is this important.

The project site location is 10 Friendship Lane near Pioneer Park. The goal is to provide permanent access to and from Pioneer Park via 10 Friendship Lane. A narrow tract of land would be purchased from the current owner and donated to the Parks Department. The tract of land would become a permanent expansion to the Park and connectivity would be enhanced. The access would allow people to walk easily to Holmes Middle School, Coronado High School, parks, shopping and medical facilities. The current owner is willing to sell a narrow tract of their lot; several neighbors are in support as well as several community organizations have provided

letters of endorsement. Land owners adjacent to the area have objected due to vandalism to mailboxes and concerns of increased traffic. The current path has been used for 50 years.

Board member Charles Castle inquired about the projected maintenance costs. Kurt Schroeder, Parks Operations Manager, stated he did not anticipate mowing needs and maintenance needs overall would be minimal at this location. Charles Castle suggested promoting activities that can be held in the park to help the owners that object to this project. Eric Vallaincourt responded that they will be partnering with “Kids on Bikes” to hold an event at Holmes Middle School to educate children in the area on how to safely ride bikes and will consider promoting other activities.

TOPS Stewardship: Archaeological Updates (Presented by Matt Mayberry, Cultural Services Manager, and Anna Cordova, Lead Archaeologist)

[Link to PowerPoint presentation](#)

The PowerPoint presentation included: what is archaeology; what does a City Archaeologist do; many ecosystems; what kind of resources do we have; stewardship at Corral Bluffs and Jimmy Camp; Corral Bluffs Archaeology; Buffalo Trail site; a recent excavation at Garden of the Gods park; what did we find; Camp Creek work and mitigation; and continuing stewardship of our archaeological resources.

Board Business

Ron Ilgen and Carol Beckman volunteered to be the Park Board representatives for the North Cheyenne Canon Master Plan process. David Deitemeyer will be leading this project. It will also incorporate trail connectivity in Stratton Open Space.

Charles Castle and Gary Feffer volunteered to be the Park Board representatives for the City Auditorium RFI process. Kim King, Administration and Recreation Manager, stated this process will include specifically the use and operating models, capital improvements and how to better utilize the auditorium. The process will start the beginning of March.

Board member Charles Castle requested that citizen, Chad Coker explains his experience with the City Auditorium. Chad stated he has been involved with the City Auditorium as a contractor and when he first walked into the auditorium in 2009 the ceiling was falling down, the floor was marred and the paint was dingy. Since 2009 there has been a great deal of improvements under the direction of the City and the management of Kelly Wetta. The City has done an incredible job of maintaining the auditorium.

Charles Castle inquired about the completion date for the improvements at Meadows Park Community Center. Kim King responded they are making progress and hopefully phase one will be completed by the end of month. The CTF funding as well as CDBG funds will help complete the last section of the roof. CDBG has funded three quarters of the roof, the electrical system and the restroom remodel; facilities have funded the security system and ADA mandated improvements.

Gary Feffer stated concern regarding core business leaders being absent at the Economic Benefit Study Release event. There is a large disconnect of our community leaders and understanding the value of Parks to the City. He suggested the information generated from the report needs to be distributed and presented continuously to the community. Karen Palus stated the Parks Department is continuing to reach out to the business community by way of presentations and meetings.

Mina Liebert stated she was not present at the LART meeting last month; however, dialogue occurred with some City Council members regarding not being supportive of funding the Olympic Museum. The interview process for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board alternate is underway. The interview panel is looking for citizens that show knowledge and interest in Colorado Springs Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services.

Scot Hume stated the Economic Benefit Study Release was a great event; however, he was disappointed due to the absence of some core community leaders. Karen Palus stated the State of the Outdoors will be held on March 20th at the City Auditorium in collaboration with David Leinweber, Chairman of the Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance. The Colorado Springs Chamber and EDC will host the event and the hope is that more business leaders will be reached and participate.

Hank Scarangella encouraged Board members to review the Code Scrub revisions and make suggestions. The Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center will be hosting “Bighorn Sheep Day” this Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and the event is free. Susan Davies organized a meeting with Dirk Draper, CEO of Colorado Springs Chamber and EDC, as a follow up to his presentation to City Council regarding the tax increase measure. Dirk Draper spoke in opposition to the tax increase and encouraged Council not to put it on the April ballot. He mentioned to Council to not just look at parks funding deficiencies, but to look at the City’s funding as a whole and change the business model to make it less dependent on sales tax. He stated to Susan Davies that during his meetings with the business community partners “parks” was not mentioned; however, the topic they continue to bring up is “availability of the workforce”. Susan Davies stated the work force is here due to the quality of life in Colorado Springs and a huge component of this is our park system.

Jason Rupinski stated two recent applications for funding were reviewed at the last TOPS Working Committee meeting.

Adjournment

Motion: Move to adjourn at 12:10 p.m.

1st – Charles Castle, 2nd – Gary Bostrom, Approved, Unanimous

In accord with the City Charter Act. III, §3-60(d) and the Colorado Open Meetings Act, C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4) (a, b and e), the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, in Open Session, is to determine whether it will hold a Closed Executive Session. The issues to be discussed involve receipt of legal advice and determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to

negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations and instructing negotiators regarding a land acquisition matter. The Chair shall poll the Park and Recreation Advisory Board members, and, upon consent of two-thirds of the members present, may hold a closed executive session. If consent to the closed executive session is not given, the item may be discussed in open session or withdrawn from consideration.

Motion: Move to enter into a closed executive session.

1st – Scot Hume, 2nd – Charles Castle, Approved, Unanimous

Closed Executive Session

Motion: To adjourn at 12:57 p.m.

1st – Gary Bostrom, 2nd – Charles Castle, Approved, Unanimous